(ख) यदि हां, तो स्थिति ठीक करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने की संभावना है और उस पर सरकार का कौन सा विभाग कार्यवाही करेगा ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिन्ता मोहन) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) ऊपर (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Independence of Namrup Fertilizer Unit

1123. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some public representatives of Assam have approached Government to convert Namrup Fertilizer Unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation into a fully independent unit;

(b) whether it contemplates to transform it into fully or partially private undertakings; and

(c) what steps are underway to make the Namrup Fertilizer viable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) No such request has been received from any public representative of Assam.

(c) The Namrup-III unit is already viable. Regarding Namrup-I and II units Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has proposed a revamp with capital restructuring and derating of capacity. No decision has been taken by Government.

Names of packing materials

1124. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3756 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26-3-1992 and state ;

(a) what are the names of packing materials where prices have gone up beyond 20 per cent;

(b) what are the names of the producers of these packing materials and what is their profitability;

(c) whether producers of such packing materials are offering heavy discounts and other incentives for purchases made in big lots; and

(d) what are the reasons for which this aspect has altogether been ignored while increasing the prices of packing materials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (d) Government's decision with regard to cost of packing materials used in formulations is based on the recommendations of BICP which are of confidential nature.

Swindling of money by top management of IDPL

1125. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3762 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26-3-92 and state :

(a) whether swindling of money by the bureaucrats of his Ministry and the top management of IDPL over the years have brought about the present position of this public sector;

(b) what are the reasons for which the Government are still with this public sector company when it is no longer the sole or major producer of any drug except some Vitamins;

(c) whether this company can survive on the basis of production of these vitamins;

(d) whether it is a fact that not only the cost of production of drugs but prices of drugs of this company are highest; and

(e) what steps have been taken or are being contemplated to dispose of this white elephant so that resources can be properly used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. The major reasons for losses of IDPL are high wage component, low capacity utilisation, obsolescence in technology, high interest burden and fixed cost, non-availability of raw materials and the constraints of working capital etc.

(b) and (c) Besides Vitamins, the company manufacuters a number of vital bulk drugs like Pen. G First crystal, Streptomycin Sulphate, Tetracycline Hcl, Oxtetracycline Hcl, Ampicillin Trihydrate, Amoxycillin, Cephelaxin, Methyl Dopa etc. It is also engaged in the manufacture of a wide variety of formulations, Organic chemicals and Surgical instruments. A number of down stream units in the small scale as well as in the organised sector depend on the bulk drugs produced by IDPL. The role of the company in the pharmaceuticals sector is not insignificant.

(d) and (e) The company has been incurring losses for past several years. Over the years the working capital of the company has eroded severely and consequently the production is affected. As a result of fall in production the incidence of wage bill on the value of production has increased. It is, however, not a fact that the cost of production of IDPL is highest in the country. Package for improvement in the performance of the company would involve stepping up of capacity utilisation, emphasis on higher sales, exports, increase in efficiencies by savings on services & utilities, cost reduction, improvement in the system of collection of outstanding dues and voluntary retirement schemes etc. As per the amended Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, cases of sick industrial units in the public sector are to be referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for consideration of various options including revival, closure etc.

Decontrolled drugs under pricing regime

1126. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what were the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the drugs; and

(d) on what consideration drugs required for the National Health Programme, like Malaria, Tuberculosis, leprosy etc. and a number of essential antibiotics required for mass consumption like Ampicilin Amoxycilin, Cephalexin, Cotrimoxazole, Erythromysin etc. were shifted to decontrolled category ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Sir, Government has seen the news item item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1992.

(b) and (c) The entire Drug Policy including DPCO, 1987 is still under review of the Government.

(d) These bulk drugs are still under price control.

Per Capita Consumption of Chemical Fertilisers

1127. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the per capita consumption of chemical fertiliser in the country at present;

(b) whether during the last ten years the per capita consumption has been increased, and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to increase its production in the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith details thereof ?